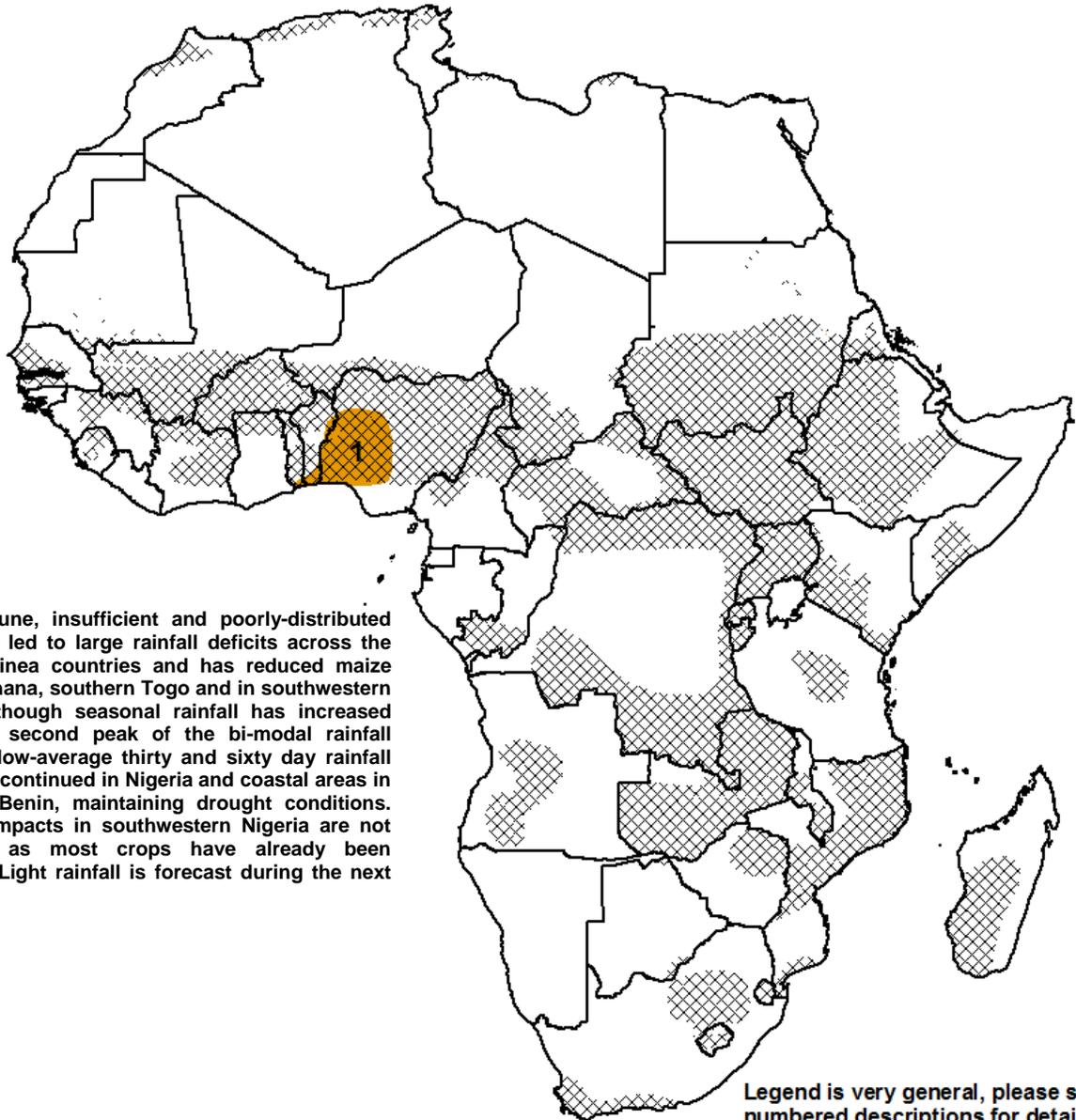




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 31 – November 6, 2013

- An increase in rain across South Africa reduces early season rainfall deficits.



1) Since June, insufficient and poorly-distributed rainfall has led to large rainfall deficits across the Gulf of Guinea countries and has reduced maize yields in Ghana, southern Togo and in southwestern Nigeria. Although seasonal rainfall has increased during the second peak of the bi-modal rainfall season, below-average thirty and sixty day rainfall totals have continued in Nigeria and coastal areas in Togo and Benin, maintaining drought conditions. However, impacts in southwestern Nigeria are not significant as most crops have already been harvested. Light rainfall is forecast during the next week.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

XXXX	November Cropped Areas
Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Orange	Drought
Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Pink	Potential Locust Outbreak
Cyan	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Light Blue	Abnormal Heat

Rainfall deficits increase around Lake Victoria.

During the past week, moderate to locally heavy rain (>30mm) was observed in South Sudan, western Ethiopia, northern Uganda and isolated areas in the cowpea belt and coastal Deeh pastoral region of central Somalia. Elsewhere, light rain (<10mm) fell. The rains across much of southern Somalia continued to be below-average, which increased seasonal rainfall deficits to between 25-100mm. Rains also were below-average for a third to fourth consecutive week around Lake Victoria in central/southern Uganda, Kenya, northern Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi which increased seasonal deficits to between 25-100mm. With the bi-modal cropping season 40-60% complete in Uganda, additional rains are needed to compensate for recent rainfall deficits. Farther north, the early equatorward retreat of the Intertropical Front has resulted in an early end to seasonal rains and developing dryness in Sudan and northern South Sudan. While seasonal rains have been slow to develop in some places, rains have been average to above-average in central Somalia, northern Uganda, Ethiopia and southern South Sudan (**Figure 1**). For the next week, seasonal rainfall is expected for much of eastern Africa as moderate rain (10-40mm) is forecast for southern Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda. Lighter amounts (<15mm) are expected in South Sudan, Kenya and northern Tanzania.

Heavy, above-average rain reduces deficits in South Africa.

After several weeks of below-average rain, rains during the last week were 10-50mm above-average in South Africa, which helped to reduce early seasonal rainfall deficits. The moderate to heavy rain (>20mm) also fell in southern Mozambique and Zimbabwe as well as farther north in Angola (**Figure 2**). The heavy rains helped to increase ground moisture in dry areas in South Africa and Angola. Ground conditions to start the season have been below-average across southern Africa. For the next week, heavy rain (>50mm) is forecast for Madagascar and central/northern Angola while light to moderate rain (5-40mm) is expected farther south in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The rains should improve ground conditions across southern Africa.

Seasonal rains are coming to an end across West Africa.

During the past week, light rains (<10mm) were observed across much of West Africa except for far western West Africa including Guinea and Sierra Leone, where heavy rains (>50mm) fell. The light rains along the Gulf of Guinea north to the Sahel are indicative of the end to the rainy season across West Africa. The season is ending dry for many places along the Gulf of Guinea including coastal Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin as well as southwestern Nigeria. Rains, during the past thirty-days, are 25-150mm below-average (**Figure 3**). Locations in southwestern Nigeria have observed erratic and poorly distributed seasonal rains throughout the past several months which had led to drought conditions. However, current dry conditions are not expected to impact crops as most crops have been harvested. For the next week, light rains (<10mm) are forecast for the Gulf of Guinea, maintaining dry conditions, while heavy rains (>50mm) are expected in far western West Africa.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

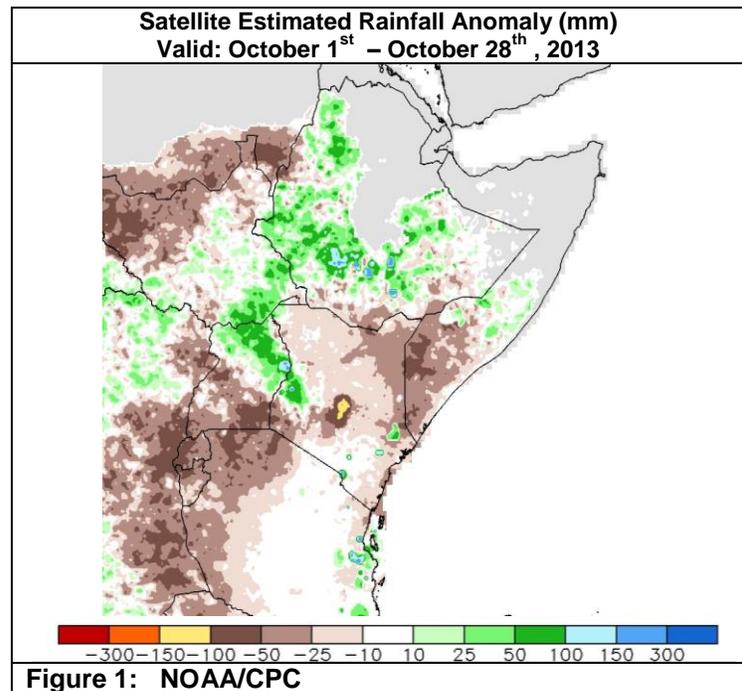


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

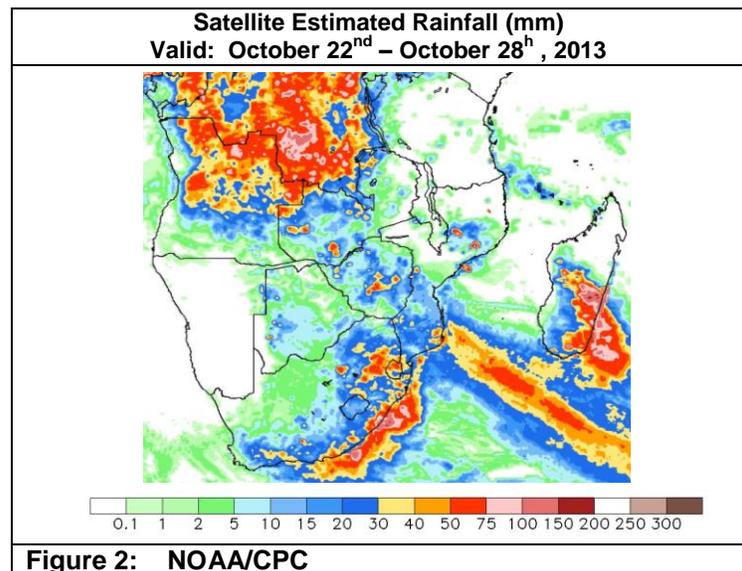


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

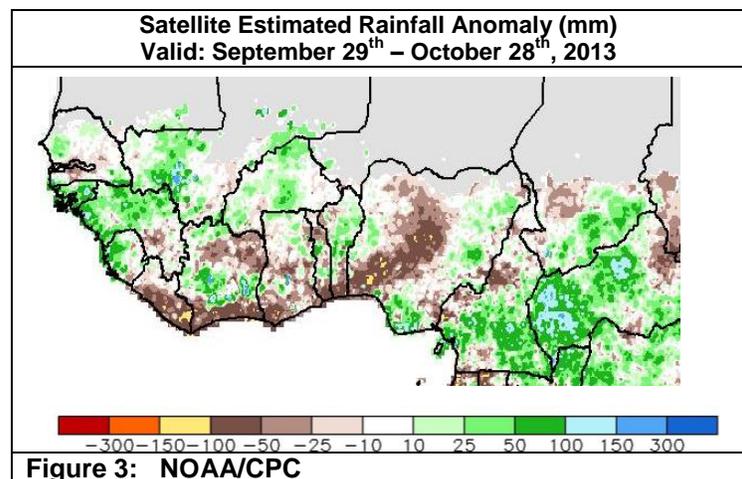


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC